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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of installing a program in a computing
5 device, comprising:
 initiating installation of a program on the
 computing device;
 for each installation property used during
 installation of the program, storing the installation
10 property in a fileset; and
 installing the fileset.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 generating a registry object for each installation
15 property; and
 storing the registry object in a system product
 registry for the program.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein storing the
20 installation property in a fileset includes storing the
 installation property in a hashtable of the fileset.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
 serializing the fileset including the hashtable; and
25 storing the serialized fileset on a storage medium.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the installation
 properties include user defined or installation program
 generated variables that are used during installation but
30 do not directly represent items that need to be
 uninstalled.

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6. The method of claim 5, wherein the installation properties include at least one of user selections from menus and typed-in information supplied by the user.

5 7. The method of claim 4, wherein upon initiation of an uninstall program, the serialized fileset is reinstantiated and the uninstall program accesses the installation properties from the hashtable to recreate an installation state.

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8. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
initiating an uninstall application for uninstalling the program;

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reinstantiating the serialized fileset; and
customizing operation of the uninstall application based on the installation property in the hashtable of the serialized fileset.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein storing the installation property in a fileset further includes:
determining if the installation property is to be masked; and

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not storing the installation property in the fileset if the installation property is to be masked.

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10. The method of claim 9, wherein determining if the installation property is to be masked includes at least one of determining if a property name includes a predetermined string, determining if the property name is part of a list of masked property names, and providing a mask method for the installation property.

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11. A method of installing a program in a computing device such that other programs will have access to installation properties, comprising:

- 5 initiating installation of a program on the computing device;
- for each installation property used during installation of the program, storing the installation property in a fileset;
- generating a registry object for each installation
- 10 property; and
- storing the registry object in a system product registry for the program, wherein other programs access the installation properties via the registry object in the system product registry.

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- 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the other programs include an uninstall program, and wherein the uninstall program generates a fileset and initializes parameters of the fileset based upon the installation properties in the
- 20 registry object.

- 13. A method of uninstalling a program, comprising:
- generating a fileset;
- identifying one or more installation properties for
- 25 the program based on stored information that includes all of the installation properties used during installation of the program; and
- initializing parameters of the fileset based on the one or more installation properties.

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- 14. The method of claim 13, wherein identifying one or more installation properties includes reading the

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installation properties using a registry object in a system product registry.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein identifying one or
5 more installation properties includes reinstantiating a serialized fileset from a storage device.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein identifying one or
more installation properties further includes reading the
10 one or more installation properties from a hashtable in the serialized fileset.

17. A computer program product in a computer readable
medium for installing a program in a computing device,
15 comprising:
 first instructions for initiating installation of a program on the computing device;
 second instructions for storing, for each
 installation property used during installation of the
20 program, the installation property in a fileset; and
 third instructions for installing the fileset.

18. The computer program product of claim 17, further
comprising:
25 fourth instructions for generating a registry object for each installation property; and
 fifth instructions for storing the registry object in a system product registry for the program.

30 19. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the second instructions for storing the installation

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property in a fileset include instructions for storing the installation property in a hashtable of the fileset.

20. The computer program product of claim 19, further
5 comprising:

fourth instructions for serializing the fileset including the hashtable; and

fifth instructions for storing the serialized fileset on a storage medium.

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21. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the installation properties include user defined or installation program generated variables that are used during installation but do not directly represent items
15 that need to be uninstalled.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the installation properties include at least one of user selections from menus and typed-in information supplied
20 by the user.

23. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein upon initiation of an uninstall program, the serialized fileset is reinstantiated and the uninstall program
25 accesses the installation properties from the hashtable to recreate an installation state.

24. The computer program product of claim 20, further comprising:
30 sixth instructions for initiating an uninstall application for uninstalling the program;

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seventh instructions for reinstantiating the
serialized fileset; and

5 eighth instructions for customizing operation of the
uninstall application based on the installation property
in the hashtable of the serialized fileset.

25. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein
the second instructions for storing the installation
property in a fileset further include:

10 instructions for determining if the installation
property is to be masked; and

instructions for not storing the installation
property in the fileset if the installation property is
to be masked.

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26. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein
the instructions for determining if the installation
property is to be masked include at least one of
instructions for determining if a property name includes
20 a predetermined string, instructions for determining if
the property name is part of a list of masked property
names, and instructions for providing a mask method for
the installation property.

25 27. A computer program product in a computer readable
medium for installing a program in a computing device
such that other programs will have access to installation
properties, comprising:

30 first instructions for initiating installation of a
program on the computing device;

second instructions for storing, for each
installation property used during installation of the

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program, the installation property in a fileset;

third instructions for generating a registry object
for each installation property; and

- fourth instructions for storing the registry object
5 in a system product registry for the program, wherein
other programs access the installation properties via the
registry object in the system product registry.

28. The computer program product of claim 27, wherein
10 the other programs include an uninstall program, and
wherein the uninstall program generates a fileset and
initializes parameters of the fileset based upon the
installation properties in the registry object.

- 15 29. A computer program product in a computer readable
medium for uninstalling a program, comprising:
first instructions for generating a fileset;
second instructions for identifying one or more
installation properties for the program based on stored
20 information that includes all of the installation
properties used during installation of the program; and
third instructions for initializing parameters of
the fileset based on the one or more installation
properties.

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30. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein
the second instructions for identifying one or more
installation properties include instructions for reading
the installation properties using a registry object in a
30 system product registry.

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31. The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the second instructions for identifying one or more installation properties include instructions for
5 reinstantiating a serialized fileset from a storage device.

32. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the second instructions for identifying one or more
10 installation properties further include instructions for reading the one or more installation properties from a hashtable in the serialized fileset.

33. An apparatus for installing a program in a computing
15 device, comprising:

means for initiating installation of a program on the computing device;

means for storing, for each installation property used during installation of the program, the installation
20 property in a fileset; and

installing the fileset.

34. An apparatus for installing a program in a computing device such that other programs will have access to
25 installation properties, comprising:

means for initiating installation of a program on the computing device;

means for storing, for each installation property used during installation of the program, the installation
30 property in a fileset;

means for generating a registry object for each installation property; and

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means for storing the registry object in a system product registry for the program, wherein other programs access the installation properties via the registry object in the system product registry.

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35. An apparatus for uninstalling a program, comprising:

means for generating a fileset;

means for identifying one or more installation properties for the program based on stored information that includes all of the installation properties used during installation of the program; and

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means for initializing parameters of the fileset based on the one or more installation properties.